

**Intent to Amend the Standards and Assessment
for Student Achievement Code**

WHEREAS, the State Board is responsible under N.J.A.C. 6A:8-2.1(a) for establishing state educational goals and standards; and

WHEREAS, the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) is provided for assessing student progress toward mastery of the essential knowledge and skills; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)5, all New Jersey public high school students are required to demonstrate proficiency in all sections of the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) or through the Special Review Assessment (SRA) process applicable to the class graduating in the year they meet all other graduation requirements; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1(c), district boards of education are required, according to a schedule prescribed by the Commissioner, to administer the applicable statewide assessments, which include the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) and the Special Review Assessment (SRA); and

WHEREAS, the Special Review Assessment (SRA) serves as an alternate means of satisfying the state graduation proficiency test requirement; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner has reviewed the Special Review Assessment (SRA) requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1 and 5.1, in consultation with educators and stakeholders statewide, and is recommending enhancements to that process designed to assure the integrity of state endorsed high school diplomas earned by means of the Special Review Assessment; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the New Jersey State Board of Education rescinds its August 3, 2005 resolution to eliminate the SRA component of the statewide assessment program; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the New Jersey State Board of Education announces its intent to amend the Statewide Assessment System requirements in N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1(c) to replace the SRA with an enhanced alternate high school assessment instrument embodying the recommendations of the Commissioner for improving the validity and integrity of the alternate high school assessment process, to be effective with the 2009-2010 school year, or as soon thereafter as the Commissioner determines possible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that all school districts in which 10 percent or more of their graduating students satisfy high school graduation testing requirements in whole or in part through the SRA, or the state's designated alternate high school graduation testing program shall submit a plan, prepared in accordance with Department of Education guidelines, for increasing the proportion of students graduating by means of the HSPA, to be effective annually starting in the 2008-2009 school year, with said plan to be submitted to the Department of Education and made available to the public no later than November 15, 2009 and each year thereafter, as appropriate.